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Guide To The (Bradt Travel Guide The)



Synopsis

The is one of the most exotic, mythic and famous regions in the world. This guide caters for all types of travellers - those on organized tours, independent seekers of adventure, and those planning an expedition. It is a handbook for people who want to look at the great tropical rainforest before it becomes overrun with tourists. It also provides advice about travelling in the region generally, as well as discussing the people and wildlife and offering practical information on all nine countries in the Basin.

Book Information

Series: Bradt Travel Guide the

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Bradt Travel Guides; 1st edition (December 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1898323712

ISBN-13: 978-1898323716

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.3 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,815,639 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Travel > South America > Brazil > #739 in Books > Travel > South America > General

Customer Reviews

'This Bradt guide to the describes every aspect of travel in this unique South American region... this is an indispensable guide.' Reviewers Bookwatch '[an] all-encompassing guide.' The Independent
'With this book, you'll be able to capture the adventure of an exploration for yourself.' Wanderlust
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The has long been associated with exploration and adventure. The world's greatest river, it flows from its source high in the Peruvian Andes through mountains, cloudforest and vast tracts of rainforest to its final destination on Brazil's eastern shores. The Bradt guide to The describes every aspect of travel in this unique region. Whether you are seeking the last word in luxurious riverboats or how to plan your own expedition, a chance to discover the extraordinary diversity of flora and fauna or to find out about the people whose lives have been molded by the river, this guide is indispensable. This guide includes all countries of the Basin and Orinoco, detailed illustrated

natural history section, gateway towns with the best access to the river, riverboats and canoe trips, preparation, planning and other practical details as well as clear regional maps and town plans. (5 1/4 x 8 1/2, 448 pages, maps, charts, color photos, illustrations)

Among all guidebooks I have seen on the , this one did the best job of gathering information and putting it in an easily readable fashion. The book is divided among the different countries in the region. Knowing the attractions mainly of the Brazilian , I can say that about half of the businesses, phone numbers, addresses, etc. are outdated. It is to be expected, since this guide was published 4 yrs ago. The Brazilian section is good, with good advice especially on the surroundings of Manaus. It also provides good advice on what to bring and what to look for in the , which is useful and timeless. To someone considering a trip to different places in the , if you want to get just one guide, I would recommend this one. If you are going to just one place, perhaps as a second guide book this would help, but I would not rely too heavily on the companies listed there, many of them no longer exist.

Excellent book.

This book was apparently lifted from a cruise ship and then sold. NOT COOL! See the inside book cover in the attached photo.

As an author who has published two guidebooks myself (and as a critical reader and user of guidebooks), I highly recommend Harris and Hutchison's *The* . This book is really two guides in one: Practical advice on where to go, where to stay, what to see and do, etc. and a valuable natural history companion. Biologist Roger Harris provides fascinating and highly readable information about the flora, fauna, and cultures you may encounter in a well-organized fashion. Not to mention thumbnail sketches of history, climate, language, health issues and other subjects of interest. The writing is rich enough to classify it as armchair travel but the hard information provided makes it practical and well worth the reasonable investment. We bought it before our trip, used it extensively during the expedition, and still refer to it now that we are home. As a writer, I'm envious of the product; as a reader I'm satisfied.

My grandson loved the book which we bought him as perporation for our River Cruise. It was perfect for hom

This was the first book that I bought for my upcoming trip to the and it is the best overall. It gives a clear and concise discussion on the natural history, the geology, the history, the food, and the overall background of the area. The section on what to bring and what to expect is helpful whether you are going to be adventurous and try the small boats or go on a cruise. The discussion of the extent of the river basin and the amount of land that it drains and the natural history is fascinating. The discussion of the types of plants and animals is a good introduction. The section on the various areas is short but helpful in planning a stay in the cities. The listing and description of the museums is invaluable and the discussion of good places to shop is intriguing. I loved the maps of the basin and the maps of the various cities are helpful. It is very well written and easy to understand. They manage to make even what for me would be dry topics interesting. I would strongly recommend this book to anyone who is planning a trip to the .

THE Great rivers, vast impenetrable jungles, exotic lost cities and remote tribal people are the kind of images most of us conjure up when the is mentioned. But there is more to the region than this. I liked the way this book gives the adventurer, traveller or dreaming reader a resource that reveals some of stuff of myth, mystery and legend - while also providing the nitty-gritty detail of how to get there, what to do, what to see, moving around (from first class river boats, internal airlines, buses and taxis through to hitch-hiking) - and how to enjoy what could well be the experience of a lifetime. The authors' challenge was to encapsulate an area three-quarters the size of the continental United States in a handy book. A task in which I think they succeed. The book in four sections. The first orientates us with an overview across the entire vast region. You will find: a brief history, getting there, what to take, descriptions of the people, sleeping and eating, climate, river regimes, planning an expedition and such like. For most travellers, the tropical forest will be an alien environment, so specific attention is given to health and personal safety - a topic that crops up in down-to-earth detail throughout the book. When snakes are mentioned for instance, you'll find advice on recognising those that are poisonous - and what to do if in the rare event you are bitten. And of infamous piranha we read with relief that their "attacks have injured people, but records show not one fatality." Whereas the typical guide might describe the architecture and art, the next section enables the traveller, be it by river-boat and canoe, by trail-walking or by road, to grasp the detail of the forest's architecture, the 150ft high trees and the surrounding super-abundant natural art. You can marvel at nature's beauty - the orchids, flowers, ferns, floating meadows, and all manner of lianas and vines. And that's just the flavour of the flora. There is also a guide to the fauna - the animals of

the canopy and forest floor, the birds like parrots, toucans, hummingbirds, plus a host of other exotic avian creatures. With the rivers so ubiquitous you are helped to identify reptiles, amphibians and the fabulous fishes. Most of the common insects are covered too. Tucked away for the traveller to find are the forest's human inhabitants - so there is also information about these more ancient folk who have evolved a way of life, a culture that has adapted them to hard task of living in the dense jungle. But those journeying through the region will need to go through at least one of the countries. So the third part of the book consists of a series of mini-guides. These give all the basic data any visitor will need. For each of the eight nation-states (and colony of French Guiana) there are the essential facts and figures - including how to access Internet - as well as introductions to the major towns and cities: where to stay (first class, middle and budget), eateries and the like. Outline maps of the countries and larger scale street maps of the bigger towns and cities will help readers find their way around. Being monolingual I particularly appreciated the short English-Spanish and English-Portuguese 'survival' glossaries (with pronunciation keys) and the list of books for further reading. Did the writers meet the challenge? I think so. Wisely the authors included extracts from other travellers and experts - so the drawings, maps and colored photographs are interspersed with boxes and sections that help to present a more balanced view of what travelling and staying in this vast region might actually be like - warts and all. There is a downside. While prices are given in US dollars and many distances given in miles alongside their kilometre equivalent, most other numeric information is given in the more scientifically correct metric system. Also perhaps, I would have welcomed a few more light-hearted anecdotes about the area. As a seasoned traveller with over 45 countries under my boots, this is the kind of guide I would want study thoroughly before I went. I would also want to keep the book with me in my back-pack or suitcase to help me relish the ever changing surroundings. It's the kind of guide that will make your time in the region safer - and so much more pleasurable, exciting, rewarding and memorable. Buy it. It will be an investment.

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